

Thursday, August 2, 2007

| House Meets At...                  | Votes Predicted At...   |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 9:00 a.m. For Legislative Business | Last Vote: Late Evening |
| Ten "One-minutes" Per Side         |                         |

**Any anticipated Member absences for votes this week should be reported to the Office of the Majority Whip at 226-3210.**

### Floor Schedule and Procedure

- **H. Res. 601—Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 3159 – Ensuring Military Readiness Through Stability and Predictability Deployment Policy Act of 2007 (Rep. Slaughter-Rules):** The closed rule provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Armed Services. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Armed Services now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Debate on the rule will be managed by Rules Committee Chair Rep. Louise Slaughter, and consideration will proceed in the following order:
  - One hour of debate on the rule.
  - Possible vote on a Democratic motion to move the previous question. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on the motion.**
  - Vote on adoption of the rule. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on adoption of the rule**
- **H. Res. 600- Rule authorizing the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules at any time through the legislative day of Friday, August 3, 2007 (Rep. Welch-Rules):** The rule provides the Speaker the authority to schedule H.R. 3087-to require the President, in coordination with the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and other senior military leaders, to develop and transmit to Congress a comprehensive strategy for the redeployment of United States Armed Forces in Iraq; and A bill to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to establish a procedure for authorizing certain electronic surveillance for consideration under suspension of the rules. Debate on the rule will be managed by Rep. Welch and consideration will proceed as follows:
  - One hour of debate on the rule.
  - Possible vote on a Democratic motion to move the previous question. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on the motion.**

- Vote on adoption of the rule. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on adoption of the rule**
- **H.R. 3159 – Ensuring Military Readiness Through Stability and Predictability Deployment Policy Act of 2007 (Rep. Tauscher-Armed Services)**: Pursuant to the rule, debate on the bill will be managed by Armed Services Committee Chair Rep. Ike Skelton, or his designee, and will proceed as follows:
  - One hour of debate on the bill.
  - Possible debate and vote on a Republican motion to recommit the bill.
  - Vote on passage of the bill. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on final passage.**
- **H. Res. 602–Rule providing for consideration of the Conference Report to Accompany H.R. 2272 – 21st Century Competitiveness Act of 2007 (Rep. Sutton-Rules)**: The rule waives all points of order against the conference report and its consideration. The rule considers the conference report as read. Debate on the rule will be managed by Rep. Sutton, and consideration will proceed as follows:
  - One hour of debate on the rule.
  - Possible vote on a Democratic motion to move the previous question. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on the motion.**
  - Vote on adoption of the rule. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on adoption of the rule**
- **Conference Report to Accompany H.R. 2272 – 21st Century Competitiveness Act of 2007(Rep. Gordon-Science and Technology)**: Pursuant to the rule, debate on the conference report will be managed by Science and Technology Committee Chair Rep. Bart Gordon, or his designee, and will proceed as follows:
  - One hour of debate on the conference report.
  - Vote on adoption of the conference report. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on adoption of the conference report.**
- **H. Res. 599-Rule providing for further consideration of H.R. 3161– Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and related agencies appropriations bill, 2008** The structured rule provides for further consideration of H.R. 3161-making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes. The rule provides that the bill shall be considered as read and that no further debate on any pending amendment shall be in order. The rule provides 30 minutes additional general debate and self executes the provisions in part A of the Rules Committee report: Furthermore, the rule makes in order only those amendments specified in Part B of the Rules Committee report. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Debate on the rule will be managed by Rep. McGovern, and consideration will proceed as follows:
  - One hour of debate on the rule.

- Possible vote on a Democratic motion to move the previous question. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on the motion.**
- Vote on adoption of the rule. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on adoption of the rule**
- **H.R. 3161– Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and related agencies appropriations bill, 2008 (Rep. DeLauro-Appropriations):** Pursuant to the rule, debate on the bill will be managed by Appropriations Committee Chair Rep. David Obey, or his designee, and consideration will proceed as follows:
  - Up to thirty minutes of debate on the bill.
  - Debate and votes on amendments to the bill.
  - Possible debate and vote on a Republican motion to recommit the bill.
  - Vote on passage of the bill. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on final passage.**

### **Bill Summary and Key Issues**

#### **H.R. 3159 the Ensuring Military Readiness Through Stability and Predictability Deployment Policy Act of 2007**

**H.R. 3159 would mandate a minimum period of rest and recuperation for units and members of the regular and reserve components of the Armed Forces between deployments for Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). Our service men and women deserve enough time at home to recover from combat deployments in Iraq.**

H.R. 3159 will:

- Enhance national security by increasing the time for troops to train for their wartime missions between deployments.
- Affirms DOD's stated policy, currently being waived for Iraq, calling for a 1:2 deployment ratio for the active duty and a 1:5 ratio for most of the reserve component, while setting a reasonable minimum dwell time standard for the armed forces.
- Provide the President and the Chiefs of the Military services with waiver authority to allow for appropriate responses to unforeseen circumstances.

The bill is a reasonable and responsible approach to dealing with the tremendous stress and strain currently being place on the military, especially the Army and Marine Corps.

#### **H.R. 3161 - AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008**

**Reinvesting in Rural America**

Rural Housing Loans: \$212.2 million, \$176.3 million above the President's request, to fund \$5.1 billion in affordable loans to provide housing to low-income families in rural areas, with no increase in fees. The President's budget had eliminated direct loans and shifted funding to guaranteed loans, increasing fees, making these loans more expensive and less accessible for low-income families. This will provide approximately 38,000 single family homeownership opportunities.

Homeownership for Rural Families: \$40 million, \$6.3 million above 2007 and \$30.5 million above the President's request, for grants to allow low-income families in rural areas to build their own houses. The ultimate goal is to double the number of participant families, from the 2002 level by 2010.

Housing for Farm Laborers: \$46.6 million, \$14.5 million above 2007 and \$36.8 million above the President's request, to fund \$75 million in affordable loans and grants for housing for farm laborers, nearly doubling the 2007 target of financing or constructing approximately 2000 units.

Rural Community Advancement Programs: \$728.8 million, \$158.3 million above the President's request, to support:

- Community Facilities: \$55.7 million, \$31.2 million above the President's request, for grants and loans to rural areas for critical community facilities, such as health care, educational, public safety and day care facilities.
- Clean Water: \$573.1 million, \$70.3 million above the President's request and \$18.1 million above 2007, for loans and grants for water and waste disposal systems, supporting \$1 billion in loans. In 2006, 985 applicants needing \$2.3 billion had their grant requests turned down.
- Business Loans and Grants: \$100 million, \$56.8 million above the President's request and \$15.6 million above 2007, for economic development in rural communities.

Technology Access: \$52.8 million, \$14.2 million above 2007 and \$28 million above the President's request, for grants for distance learning, telemedicine, and broadband development in rural areas. This increase provides funding to double the broadband grant program and a 41 percent increase in distance learning and telemedicine grants to assist rural schools, learning centers, and rural communities in gaining access to improved educational resources, and assist hospitals and health care centers in gaining access to improved medical resources.

## **Protecting Public Health**

Food Safety and Inspection Service: \$930.1 million, \$38 million above 2007 and matching the President's request, addressing vacancies in federal meat inspector positions. Food and Drug Administration: \$1.69 billion, \$128.5 million above 2007 and \$62 million above the President's request, including increases to begin a transformation of food safety regulation, improve drug safety, monitor prescription drug advertisements and review generic drug applications.

## **Improving Nutrition**

Commodity Supplemental Food Program: \$150 million, \$43 million above 2007 and eliminated in the President's request, for food aid for women, infants, children, and the elderly. In 2007, program participation averaged 485,614 monthly. This amount would allow five new states to participate in the program and expand participation in existing states. Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC): \$5.6 billion, \$415.6 million above 2007 and \$233.4 million above the President's request, including \$145 million to restore the President's proposed cuts to grants that help states administer the program. 8.38 million Americans are expected to participate in the program next year.

Nutrition: \$957.7 million, \$45.5 million above 2007 and \$69.7 million over the President's request, for nutrition programs, including the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (\$68.5 million), Fresh Fruit and Vegetable and Simplified Summer Food programs (\$26 million) to all states to provide nutritious foods to children in low-income families, and specialty crop grants to encourage more fruit and vegetable consumption (\$10 million).

## **Transforming our Energy Future**

Renewable Energy: \$1.2 billion, \$955.3 million above 2007 and \$810.4 million above the President's request, for bio-energy and renewable energy research and development, including loans and grants in rural areas.

- Wind Energy: \$500 million is included in the Rural Electrification and Telecommunications Loans Program for new wind energy projects.
- Business and Industry Loans: \$350 million is targeted for biomass and renewable energy projects funded through the Guaranteed Business and Industry loan program.

## **Supporting Conservation**

Conservation Programs: \$979.4 million, \$127.6 million above 2007 and \$154.7 million above the President's request, for conservation efforts and community development. This bill restores many of the programs slated for major reductions in the president's request, including the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative, Resource Conservation and Development, and the watershed programs which are funded \$75 million – more than double last year's levels.

## **Investing in Research**

Animal and Plant Health: \$874.6 million, \$28.4 million above 2007 and \$70.9 million below the President's request, to fund programs that protect American agriculture against animal and plant diseases, such as avian influenza.

## **Oversight and Enforcement**

Crop Insurance Integrity: \$11.2 million, \$5.4 million above 2007 and matching the President's request, for a system to detect potential waste, fraud and abuse in crop insurance and farm loan programs, and an additional \$1 million for Inspector General oversight in this area.

Ensuring Livestock Competition: \$22.8 million, \$2 million above 2007 and matching the President's request, to enforce the Packers and Stockyards Act to assure fair competition and fair trade practices, safeguard farmers and ranchers, protect consumers and protect members of the livestock, meat, and poultry industries from unfair, deceptive, unjustly discriminatory and monopolistic practices. These funds provide for new agents and other professionals to strengthen enforcement and promote voluntary compliance. Enforcement Efforts at the Commodity Futures Trading Commission: \$102.6 million, \$4.6 million above 2007 for additional staff to enforce the agencies regulations.

## **IMPORTANT POLICY ITEMS**

Animal Identification: Does not provide new funding for the program because USDA cannot justify money already appropriated. Drastic action is required as this program is far too important to be allowed to continue to flounder. The agency is directed to develop a detailed plan with measurable goals.

Conflicts of Interest on FDA Advisory Committees: Bars FDA from granting waivers for conflicts of interest rules to voting members of FDA advisory committees.

Food Stamp Benefits: Excludes special pay for military personnel deployed to designated combat areas when determining food stamp eligibility. The Food Stamp Program is provided at \$39.8 billion, an increase of \$1.7 billion over 2007 to meet increased participation. Rejects the Administration's proposal to restrict eligibility for food stamps by excluding needy families who are receiving certain other services.

Imported Poultry Products from China: Prohibits USDA from establishing or implementing a rule allowing poultry products from China into the U.S.

Country of Origin Labeling: Sets a timeline for USDA to implement country of origin labeling.

### **Anticipated Amendments to H.R. 3161**

Sessions. Strikes language from the bill prohibiting use of funds by the USDA Chief Financial Officer for "competitive sourcing" activities until the Secretary of Agriculture submits a report on the Department's contracting out policies and budget. 10 minutes

Price (GA). Reduces funds provided in the bill for the Agricultural Research Service by \$54,823,000. 10 minutes

Hensarling. Reduces funds provided in the bill for rural community facilities programs by \$6,287,000. 10 minutes

Hensarling. Reduces funds provided in the bill for grants to finance broadband transmission in rural areas by \$8,910,000. 10 minutes

Kingston. Strikes provision from the bill (section 726) relating to importation of prescription drugs. 10 minutes

Kingston. Adds language prohibiting use of funds to apply labor standards under the Davis-Bacon Act to contracts for construction of renewable energy systems. 10 minutes

Jordan. Reduces all discretionary appropriations in the bill by 5.5 percent. 10 minutes

Flake. Prohibits use of funds for an earmark contained in the committee report for the Catfish Pathogen Genomic Project in Auburn, AL. 10 minutes

Flake. Prohibits use of funds for an earmark contained in the committee report for grape genetics research in Geneva, NY. 10 minutes

Flake. Prohibits use of funds for an earmark contained in the committee report for the Alternative Uses of Tobacco (MD) grant. 10 minutes

Flake. Prohibits use of funds for an earmark contained in the committee report for the Ruminant Nutrition Consortium (MT, ND, SD, WY) grant. 10 minutes

Flake. Prohibits use of funds for an earmark contained in the committee report for the Wood Utilization (OR, MS, NC, MN, ME, MI, ID, TN, AK, WV) grant. 10 minutes

### **Conference Report to Accompany H.R. 2272 – 21st Century Competitiveness Act of 2007**

Earlier this year, both the U.S. House and Senate passed comprehensive legislation (H.R. 2272, S. 761) to ensure our nation's competitive position in the world through improvements to math and science education and a strong commitment to research.

H.R. 2272 is the culmination of a year and a half-long, bipartisan effort led by Members of the House Science and Technology Committee to pass a package of competitiveness bills in response to recommendations in the 2005 National Academies report, *Rising above the Gathering Storm*.

The Conference Agreement follows through on a commitment to ensure U.S. students, teachers, businesses and workers are prepared to continue leading the world in innovation, research and technology – well into the future.

America's greatest resource for innovation is in classrooms across this country. This legislation will train more of our students in math, science, engineering, and technology, to turn ideas into innovative technologies to boost our economy and

create good American jobs. Future innovators must reflect the diversity of our country, and our efforts to train them for the global economy must reflect the needs of the marketplace.

To achieve this goal, this legislation:

- Invests in roughly 25,000 new teachers over the next three years through professional development, summer training institutes, graduate education assistance, and scholarships through NSF's Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program and Math and Science Partnerships Program.
- Ensures more highly qualified teachers in the fields of mathematics, science, engineering, technology, and critical foreign languages through grant programs that provide baccalaureate degrees in these areas with concurrent teacher certification. Also authorizes competitive grants to increase the number of teachers serving high-needs schools and increases the number of qualified Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) teachers.
- Establishes a public-private partnership with the business community to identify 'high needs' fields, and to train mathematicians, scientists and engineers to enter those jobs. Expands access to Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) classes for students.
- Enhances the ability of states to build more competitive workforces, through P-16+ Councils and other tools, to coordinate education and workforce goals with industry and community leaders, and to identify the challenges of recruiting and retaining students in innovative fields.
- Broadens the participation of minorities and women in science and engineering fields at all levels, from kindergarten students to advanced researchers.

### **A Sustained Commitment To Research & Development**

Independent scientific research provides the foundation for innovation and future technologies. But U.S. federal funding for R&D has declined steadily over the last decade, and sound science has been compromised by political interference. This legislation:

- Invests in basic research and development and puts us on a path to double funding for the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and the Department of Energy's Office of Science.
- Provides grants for outstanding researches in the early stages of their careers at both NSF and the Department of Energy.
- Coordinates and prioritizes research infrastructure needs at universities and national labs, strengthens planning and coordination for interagency research and development in information technology including deployment



of high performance computers for use by the research community, and establishes a Presidential innovation award.

## **A Declaration Of Energy Independence**

America must implement a bold energy strategy to create new high-paying jobs, strengthen our national security, reduce costs for American consumers, and reduce global warming. A skilled 'green' workforce and new clean energy technologies will be the economic engines of the 21st century.

The 110<sup>th</sup> Congress is passing separate Energy Independence legislation, as well as in this legislation:

- Strengthens our national commitment to energy research and innovation, by creating a new Advanced Research Projects Agency for Energy (ARPA-E), like we already have for the Department of Defense. The agency will help provide talent and resources for high-risk, high-reward energy research and technology development, and help attract investment for the next generation of revolutionary technologies.

## **A Focus On Small Business Innovation**

Small businesses are often the catalysts for technological innovation. The evolution from idea to marketable product, guided by a successful business plan, has led to entrepreneurial successes that have made small businesses star players in our technological revolution. Yet small businesses face significant hurdles, both regulatory and market-based, that limit their efforts to transform ideas into jobs. Removing these hurdles has been a key goal of the Innovation Agenda. This legislation:

- Spurs new manufacturing processes and techniques by putting funding for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) on a path to doubling over 10 years. The partnership also leverages federal, state, and private dollars.
- Supports high-risk, high-reward, pre-competitive technology development, with high potential for public benefit, with a new initiative, the Technology Innovation Program (TIP), to focus on small and medium-sized companies.

## **Quote of the Day**

"You can do anything you think you can. This knowledge is literally the gift of the gods, for through it you can solve every human problem. It should make of you an incurable optimist. It is the open door."

-Robert Collier